

*Rec'd from  
Stodola* MAY 12 1942

1086 East 180 Street,  
New York, N.Y.,  
July 6, 1942.

Dr. Frank H. Stodola,  
Dept of Organic Chemistry,  
Columbia University,

Dear Sir:

Although I had planned to work all summer, I find myself attracted by the possibilities of your Chem 542C course. I should not trouble to write you except that I anticipate some technical difficulties in the manner of satisfaction of prerequisites. Last January, with Prof. Nelson's permission, I was able to pass the final exam in Chem 41 as an achievement exam on the basis of personal self-instruction for several years. I have had no other chemistry courses in Columbia College, but in high school learned the rudiments of qualitative analysis. My main interests are in physiological chemistry- for the last few months I had been working at Columbia on enzyme-inhibitors and their effect on mitosis in the onion root-tip- so that my laboratory experience in Chem 41 material may not be quite up to par. I have prepared a few compounds, however- acetaldehyde, methyl orange, Magneson I (dinitrobenzene azoresorcinol) and other simple preps. However, I plan to spend some evening this month brushing up on that technique at a very well-equipped home lab with a friend. Under these circumstances, do you anticipate any difficulty in accepting me into your course, Chem 542C with credit for the College? Preliminary remarks by my college adviser indicate no difficulty there.

Sincerely yours,  
*Joshua Lederberg*  
Joshua Lederberg.